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FINAL SUMMARY

ALBERTA ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

RESOURCE EVALUATION AND PLANNING

SUMMARY REPORT ON PUBLIC FORUMS

FOR THE SEPTEMBER, 1984 DRAFT

OF THE CASTLE RIVER SUB-REGIONAL

INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN

January, 1985

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
1.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.	COMMENTS AND RESPONSES	3
2.1	Tourism Opportunities in the Castle River Area	3
2.2	West Castle Park Four Season Resort Development	7
2.3	Green Area Refinement	9
2.4	Domestic Grazing in the Castle River Area	10
2.5	Zoning in the Upper South Castle Valley	12
2.6	Critical Wildlife (Zone 2) Designations East of the Rocky Mountain Forest Reserve	15
2.7	Coal Development in the Castle River Area	16
2.8	Implementation of the Castle River Sub-regional Integrated Resource Plan	18
2.9	Assorted Operational or Peripherally-Related Comments	20
3.	LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS	22

APPENDICES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

1 - News release and Location Map
2 - Newspaper Stories
3 - Transcripts of Public Forum, Information Exchange Sessions
4 - Formal Written Briefs

1. INTRODUCTION

Public forums were held in the City of Lethbridge, Town of Pincher Creek and Municipality of Crowsnest Pass on November 28, 29 and 30, 1984, respectively, to gauge public opinion on the Castle River Sub-regional Integrated Resource Plan. A public awareness campaign was initiated three weeks prior to the forums to alert regional and local residents that the Alberta government had prepared a draft plan for resource allocation and management in the Castle River area; and that opportunities were available for individuals and organizations to meet with government personnel to discuss the merits and demerits of the draft plan. Advance public notice was given through the direct-mail distribution of a newsflyer to over 8000 residents in the Cardston, Pincher Creek and Crowsnest Pass areas; newspaper ads were placed in local and regional newspapers; and a media package was sent to local and regional radio stations and newspapers (Appendix 1). These media carried stories on the draft plan and provided public notices on the location and time of forums. The draft plan received extensive newspaper coverage (Appendix 2).

The public forums were conducted in two parts in each community. From the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. "Open House Sessions" (OHS) were conducted at which the public had an opportunity to review the draft plan with members of the planning team[1]. An elaborate display highlighting major provisions of the plan also facilitated and stimulated public comment. The Open House Sessions were conducted in an informal setting. Many of the concerns and issues raised by the public at this time were resolved through clarification and additional information. The formal segment of the forums were conducted from 7:00 p.m. onward. These "Information Exchange Sessions" (IES) were chaired to ensure the time available was used wisely. A panel of 10 director-level members representing a diverse range of

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[1]Included representatives from the Alberta Forest Service, Public Lands Division, Fish and Wildlife Division, Mineral Resources Division and the Resource Evaluation and Planning Division of Alberta Energy and Natural Resources; and Alberta Recreation and Parks.

government agency[2] interest in the planning area, responded to formal briefs and comments following a general presentation of the plan. The proceedings were tape-recorded for latter transcription and reference.

Additional public comments were recorded by questionnaire during both the Open House and Information Exchange sessions. To ensure ample opportunity was available to the public to review and comment on the draft plan, briefs were accepted for two weeks following the forums. Extensions have been granted to individuals and organizations where circumstances prevented an earlier submission.

In total, 332 people attended the public forums held in Lethbridge (OHS-24/IES-42), Pincher Creek (OHS-95/IES-78) and the Crowsnest Pass (OHS-22/IES-71). The Pincher Creek forums had the highest attenance (52 per cent), followed by the Crowsnest Pass (28 per cent) and Lethbridge (20 per cent) forums.

Twenty-one local ranchers attended a special meeting held during the Open House Session in Pincher Creek to review a specific provision in the plan which they felt affected grazing rights on public lands. The discussion that ensued over the course of this meeting was instrumental in the formulation of a brief presented at the evening Information Exchange Session.

Public opinion on the draft plan has been recorded in a variety of formats. A total of 30 briefs were received over the course of the Information Exchange Sessions (7 written, 10 oral) and over the four weeks that followed (13 written). All written briefs are found in Appendix 3. Fourteen individuals and organizations commented on the draft plan and resource management in the Castle River area during the question and answer period following the presentation of formal briefs. These comments and oral presentations of written briefs have been transcribed (Appendix 4). Out of the total attendance of 332, 77 (23 per cent) provided comments by questionnaire during and after the public forums. Public opinions expressed during the Open House Sessions were also recorded by the planning team in attendance.

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[2]Alberta Forest Service, Public Lands Division, Fish and Wildlife Division, Mineral Resources Division and the Resource Evaluation and Planning Division of Alberta Energy and Natural Resources; Alberta Recreation and Parks; Alberta Agriculture; Alberta Culture; Alberta Tourism and Small Business; and Alberta Transportation.

Display Setup, Pincher Creek November 28, 1984

Castle River Information Exchange Session Panel from left to right: David Luff - Mineral Resources, ENR, Paul Skydt, Recreation and Parks Neil Taylor - Tourism & Small Business, Paul Donahue - Culture, Eric Horton - Agriculture, John Marczyk, Resource Planning, ENR, Richard Roberts - Chairman, Norbert Kondla - Regional Resource Coordinator, ENR, Charles Lendzion - Transportation, Art Peters - Forest Services, ENR, Bud Klumph - Public Lands, ENR Duanne Radford - Fish & Wildlife Services, ENR. Missing from photo Dave Perraten - Recreation and Parks, Don Szarko - Transportation

PINCHER CREEK INFORMATION EXCHANGE SESSION

NOVEMBER 29th 1984

2. COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

An extensive and diverse range of public opinion on the September, 1984 draft of the Castle River Sub-regional Integrated Resource Plan was captured as a result of the public forums held in late-November, 1984. A list of comment contributors is found in Section 3 of this report.

Major topic areas are identified below. An attempt has been made to identify the origin and number of specific comments received on a given topic so that conclusions can be drawn on the relative significance of comments.

2.1 Tourism Opportunities in the Castle River Area

2.1.1 Summary of Comments

The draft plan's establishment of tourism as a priority for the Castle River area in conjunction with watershed and recreation management received a mixed review. While the Town and Municipal District of Pincher Creek councils and the Chinook Country Tourist Association were in favour of this provision, local Fish and Game Associations and several residents provided a contradictory response due to a perceived shift in traditional recreational use in the area[3].

The Alberta Wilderness Association and Cottonwood Consultants Ltd. are concerned that the draft plan does not fully reflect the high priority given recreation and tourism. Both organizations have challenged policy provisions for the Castle-Front Range Headwaters management area.

2.1.2 Government Response

The latest draft of the Castle River plan places emphasis on tourism as a priority along with watershed and recreation management in

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[3]Major Juan Terran of Pincher Creek was applauded for his support for the creation of additional tourism opportunities in the Castle River area at the Pincher Creek Information Exchange Session. This reinforcement was absent in formal comments received.

response to the Alberta government's desire to strengthen the tourism industry in the province. This was reflected in the government's assignment of tourism as a priority in the revised Eastern Slopes Policy prepared in 1984. The Castle River plan takes direction from this policy and has allocated one out of five major areas in the planning area for tourism and intensive recreation opportunities (i.e. Castle-Carbondale Management Area). To provide a balance in recreational use, another area has been set aside for traditional recreational uses (i.e. Castle-Front Range Headwaters Management Area). While other resources will be developed in this area, extreme care will be taken to ensure traditional recreation uses have priority.

2.1.3 Specific Comments Received

1. There is a need for additional tourism development in the Castle River area.

   Reference Index 21, 23, 25, 45, 89, 126.

2. The shift to tourism and pro-resource development focus in the Castle River area is based on similar emphasis in the revised Eastern Slopes Policy. The draft plan should not take direction from the revised policy because it does not reflect public opinion. The Eastern Slopes Policy was revised without public input.

   Reference Index 7, 17a, 18, 34.

3. The Castle River area should not be developed into another Kananaskis Country because of the restrictions that are eventually placed on traditional recreational uses.

   Reference Index 41, 56, 94, 103, 114, 120, 121.

4. Opposed to tourism development in general because of its incompatibility with wildlife protection, wilderness preservation or traditional recreation uses.

   Reference Index 26, 37, 105, 106.

5. Concerned that the high intensity of recreational facility development and use envisioned for the Castle River area will destroy the resource base upon which it is dependent.

   Reference Index 129.

6. Opposed to high priority for tourism, watershed and recreation management in the Castle River area. Timber and mineral development are consequently relegated to lesser priority. Resource development is legitimate and should not be accorded lesser priority.

   Reference Index 33.

7. The highest priorities for the Castle River sub-regional planning area have been publically identified as WATERSHED and RECREATION. In 1984, our government added TOURISM to this list. Logically, it should then follow that all other resource uses in the area should be subjacent to these three priorities. During implementation of the Castle River plan, conflicting land uses should be resolved in favor of watershed, recreation and tourism, and resource developments that either do not conflict with, or actually enhance watershed protection, recreation and tourism should be encouraged over other resource developments in this area.

   Reference Index 131.

8. Support the watershed, recreation and tourism priorities; however, the draft plan does not back these priorities enough. Tourism is not being served because there is no refuge from potential development. The draft plan as it now stands appears to be multiple use everywhere.

   Reference Index 130.

9. The draft plan does not fully reflect the high priority given recreation and tourism because it does not identify an adequate land base for extensive recreation and ensure the realization of the high wildland recreation potential of the Castle-Front Range Headwaters management area. To satisfactorily achieve these objectives the management area should be zoned as Prime Protection as shown on Map 1 and designated as a wilderness park similar to Willmore Wilderness Park, or as a Wildland Recreation Area. (The latter is defined as "wild areas where most outdoor activities including hunting are allowed, but where motorized vehicles and natural resource industries are forbidden".)

   Reference Index 131.

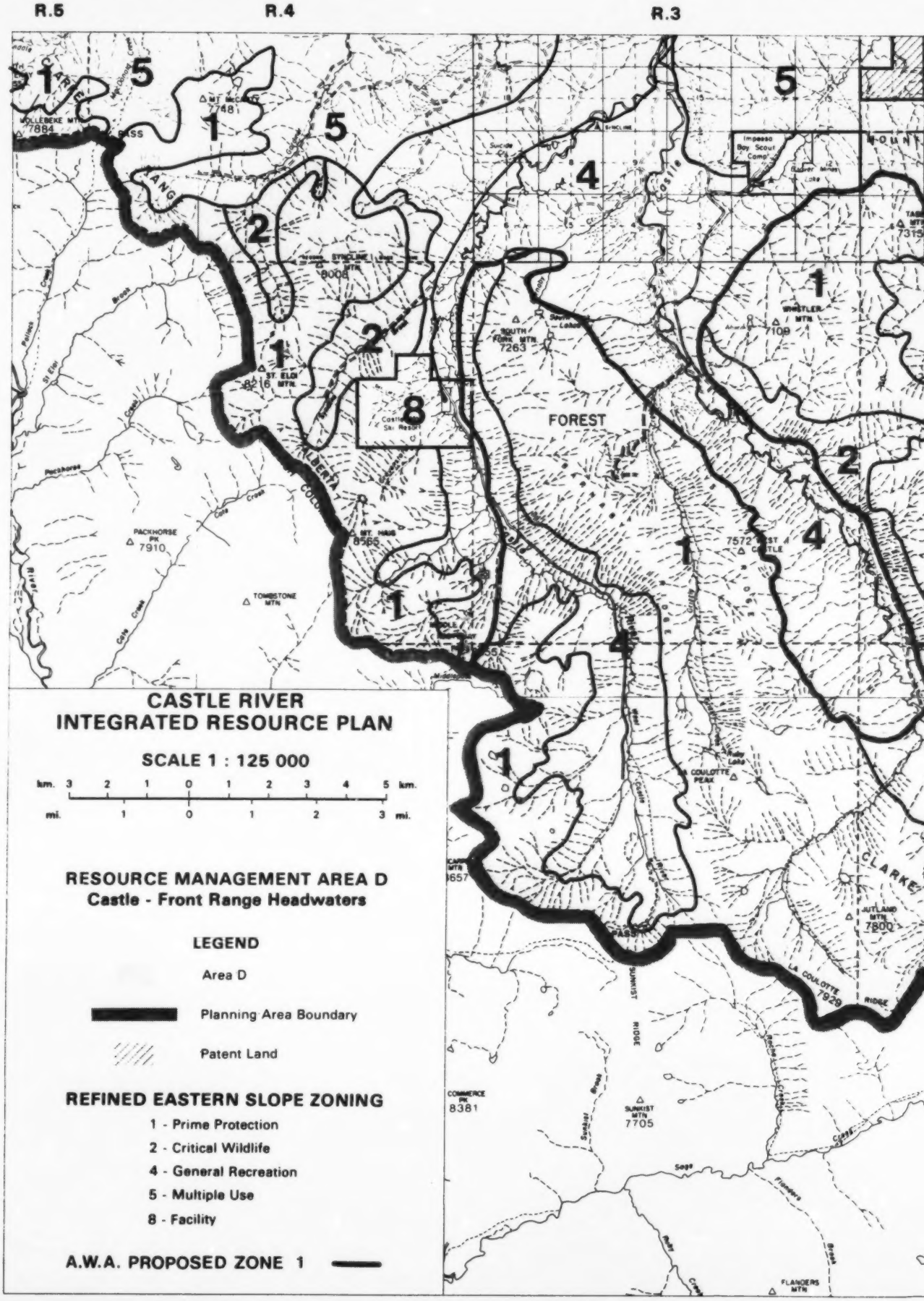
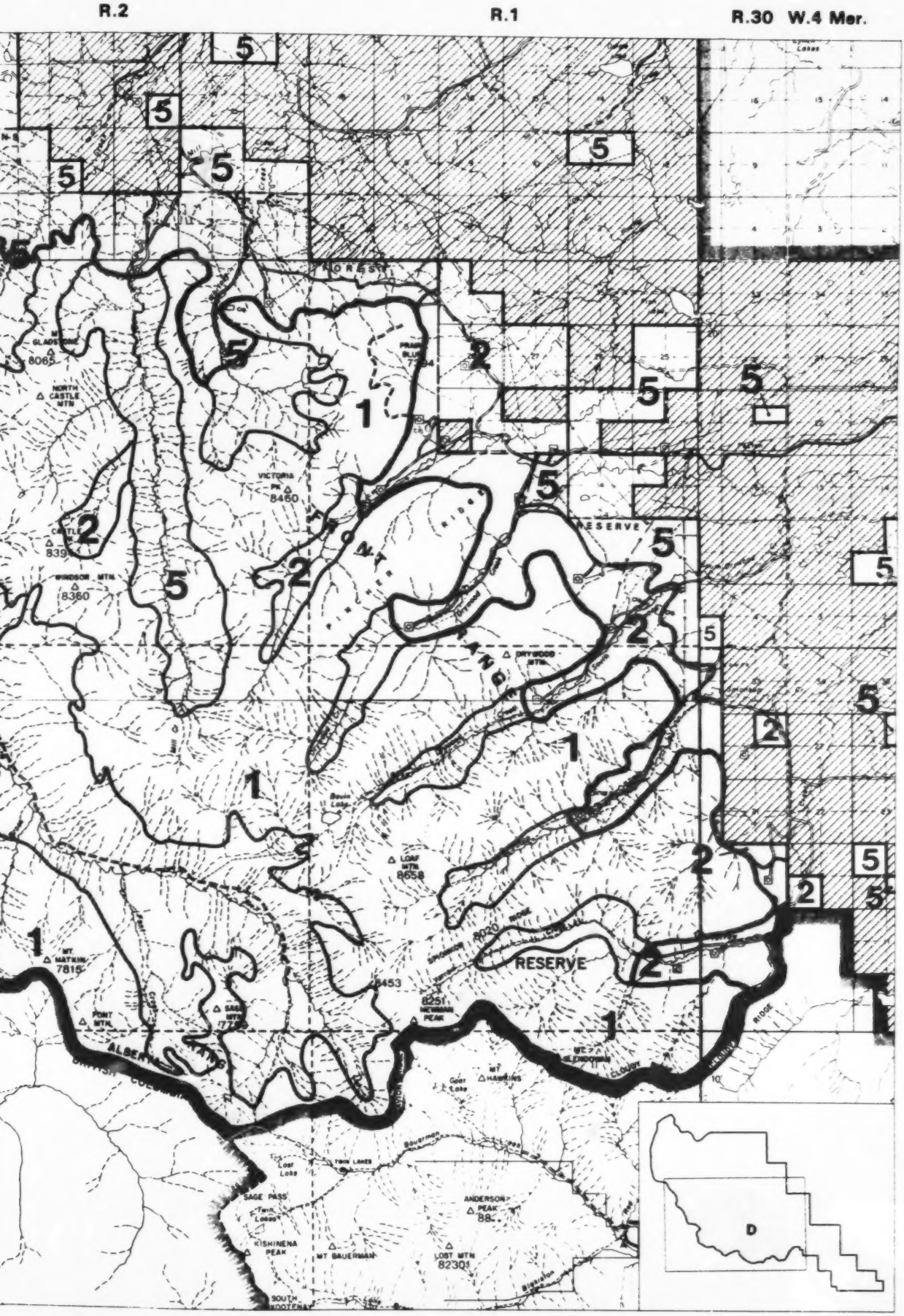


FIG. 7: CASTLE - FRONT RANGE HEADWATERS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA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LOAF MTN
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RESERVE
MT. MATKIN
7815
POINT MTN
8453
8251
NEWMAN PEAK
MT. HAWKINS
SAGE PASS
KISHINENA PEAK
MT. BAUERMAN
LOST MTN
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ANDERSON PEAK
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2.2 West Castle Park Four-Season Resort Development

2.2.1 Summary of Comments

The majority of comments received on this subject rejected the draft plan's accommodation of four season resort development at West Castle Park. Sale of public land or the expansion of the existing lease at West Castle Park was a primary concern at the Crowsnest Pass public forums. Concern was strongly expressed that traditional opportunities would be seriously disrupted because of the environmental impact associated with large-scale commercial development.

2.2.2 Government Response

The draft plan as currently written will accommodate the expansion of West Castle Park in response to the Alberta government's approval in principle in 1984 of a four season resort development concept. The development concept was submitted to the government by the West Castle Management Committee on behalf of the Town and Municipal District of Pincher Creek, the co-owners of the existing ski facility. With government support for the preliminary disclosure, the Town and Municipal District of Pincher Creek will be able to proceed to request proposals from private sector developers. Before any development occurs, however, the government must obtain detailed information on site design and associated engineering, environmental and economic feasibility.

2.2.3 Specific Comments Received

1. Strongly against the sale of Crown land at West Castle Park and elsewhere in the Castle River area without prior public disclosure and opportunity for review. This comment often centred on the concern that traditional recreational uses would be lost or access would be curtailed once lands were sold or leased for commercial use. At the Crowsnest Pass Information Exchange Session, it was strongly recommended that a five year moratorium should be placed on land or lease sales so the matter could be carefully studied before any action is taken.

   Reference Index 18, 38, 36, 39, 54, 57, 60, 70, 107, 111, 112, 114, 116, 119, 120, 121, 128.

2. Development at West Castle Park should be restricted to small-scale winter use only because of the very significant environmental impact associated with larger scale development.

   Reference Index 27, 55, 56, 87, 91, 104, 114.

3. Opposed to four-season resort development at West Castle Park because of impact on water quality and the environment in general. Additional ski facility development was acceptable, but extensive resort development on-site was not. Several of these contributors felt that the latter type of development should occur east of the Forest Reserve, near Pincher Creek or Beaver Mines.

   Reference Index 17, 17a, 18, 34, 50, 99, 102, 105, 127.

4. If West Castle Park becomes a four season tourist destination, Beaver Mines Lake will receive a substantial increase in summer use. The area has already reached its use capacity. A specific concern was raised by some contributors regarding the government's support for Camp Impessa which is operated by the Boy Scouts of Canada.

   Reference Index 9, 36, 46.

5. Concerned about West Castle Park four season resort development since it could prohibit or restrict snowmobile access to the upper West Castle Valley.

   Reference Index 93, 97, 98.

6. Residential accommodation should be concentrated in municipalities where servicing, waste disposal and other challenges associated with high population densities can be accommodated.

   Reference Index 33.

7. With additional development at West Castle Park, potential for conflict may exist for the operation of a biological field station operated by the University of Lethbridge. The field station is situated north of the West Castle Park.

   Reference Index 13.

8. The Associate Minister of Public Lands and Wildlife was requested to withhold a decision to lease or deed land required for four season resort development at West Castle Park until the controversy over the expenditure of public funds by the Town and Municipal District of Pincher Creek is resolved by plebiscite.

   Reference Index 19.

2.3 Green Area Refinement (45 Quarter Sections)

2.3.1 Summary of Comments

The draft plan's proposal to transfer 45 quarter sections of land into the Green Area was both challenged and supported. Strong opposition to the proposal was given by local agricultural users of these lands during the Pincher Creek Open House Session. Local ranchers were concerned that their present management rights would be jeopardized over time if the proposal was approved by the Alberta government. The Municipal District of Pincher Creek and Improvement District 6 councils strongly supported the rancher's position. The Alberta Forest Products Association was in support of the proposal since these lands had a valuable timber resource which could not be used on a sustained yield basis unless land base security could be guaranteed.

2.3.2 Government Response

The Green-White area boundary was drawn in 1948 on a provincial scale to separate lands important for multiple uses including domestic grazing, wildlife conservation, watershed management, timber production and recreation (Green Area) and cultivation and settlement (White Area). One of the objectives of the Castle River Sub-regional Integrated Resource Plan was to refine this boundary on the basis of new, more detailed resource information. Through the planning process, 45 quarter sections of land adjacent to the Green Area boundary (same as the Forest Reserve boundary in southern Alberta) were found to display characteristics common to Green Area lands. Because these lands qualified for Green Area status, their inclusion in the Green Area was proposed in the draft plan. To ensure continuity, provisions were made for the continuance of existing grazing leases under the administration of the Public Lands Division of Alberta Energy and Natural Resources.

In response to the concerns of the ranching community, the Associate Minister of Public Lands and Wildlife in December, 1984 authorized an amendment to the draft plan. The plan will stress the importance of watershed management, range, wildlife, timber and recreation resources. To ensure that this full range of resource uses will be perpetuated over time, the plan will contain provisions prohibiting sale of these lands. The Green-White area boundary will remain unchanged.

2.3.3 Specific Comments Received

1. Strongly opposed to a change in the designation of 45 quarter sections of land currently found in the White Area. A change in designation to Green Area will seriously affect existing agricultural users of this land by: a) changing the tenure of grazing dispositions over time (i.e. grazing "leases" issued in the White Area have a relatively secure tenure, whereas grazing "permits" issued in the Green Area have a one year renewable term; b) changing the grazing priority of these lands established by lease agreement; c) curtailing range improvement programs; d) altering rights to control public access over time because of a possible disposition change.

   Index Reference 3, 20, 32, 59, 79, 85, 92, 95, 96, 117, 122.

2. Opposed to the change in designation from White to Green Area because of the changes in government policy which may follow for domestic grazing and local timber use.

   Index Reference 94.

3. In favour of a change in designation because these lands have a valuable timber resource which can be used on a sustained-yield basis. Under a White Area status, once these lands are harvested for timber, reforestation normally does not occur. This step is very positive since it will strengthen the local timber industry by enlarging the productive forest land base.

   Reference Index 4.

2.4 Domestic Grazing in the Castle River Area

2.4.1 Summary of Comments

The Improvement District 6 Advisory Council and local ranchers expressed the need to maintain domestic grazing opportunities in the Castle River area. The Alberta Fish and Game Association was concerned that the government was not exercising enough controls to minimize competition between domestic livestock and wild ungulates for forage. Damage to riparian areas and the subsequent impact on the fishery resource was also of concern. The Association was strongly opposed to an increase in stocking rates proposed in the plan. A couple of contributors at the Crowsnest Pass Information Exchange Session were opposed to domestic grazing within the Forest Reserve.

2.4.2 Government Response

The Castle River draft plan recognizes the significance of many resource uses in the Castle River area, domestic grazing is no exception. To honour past ministerial commitments to the ranching community, the plan proposes the maintenance of stocking levels held in 1977 in the Forest Reserve and the White Area. Because brush encroachment has not been impeded since the mid-1960s in the Forest Reserve, potential for an additional 1100 animal units exists. Realization of this target increase, however, will depend upon its compatibility with wildlife and recreation objectives. Range improvements will not be conducted in order to increase stocking rates if recreation or wildlife values could be compromised.

2.4.3 Specific Comments Received

1. Domestic grazing must be recognized as a priority in the Castle River area because of its importance to the agricultural community.

   Reference Index 75, 76, 84.

2. The Improvement District 6 Advisory Council recognizes and supports the draft plan's commitment to maintain the number of animal units months (AUMs) for cattle grazing in the Forest Reserve and White Area. The council also endorses the draft plan's goal to increase the grazing capacity for cattle by more than 1000 AUMs.

   Reference Index 3.

3. Opposed to domestic grazing within the Forest Reserve because of the competition for forage between wild ungulates and cattle.

   Reference Index 37, 40.

4. Opposed to domestic grazing on public lands in the Castle River area in general or specific areas (i.e. Front Range canyons, South Castle Valley) because of its incompatibility with recreational use.

   Reference Index 24, 123.

5. Opposed to the draft plan's proposed increase in domestic grazing by over 1000 AUMs in the Forest Reserve.

   Reference Index 34.

6. If domestic grazing is allowed to continue on public land better control is needed to ensure competition for forage between cattle and wild ungulates is minimized. More specifically, carrying capacities must not be exceeded, and access should not be allowed to higher elevations or cutblocks. In addition, access to riparian zones must be carefully controlled because of the impact on water quality and the fishery resource.

   Reference Index 17, 17a.

7. Trying to increase the AUMs for cattle grazing may be a mistake in that elimination of all woody invaders may require treatments which are not in the best interest of watershed or wildlife (i.e. not just huntable species).

   Reference Index 130.

8. Before the objectives of maintaining the 1977 domestic stocking levels and of actively increasing these can be presented with any amount of justice under either the integrated management planning process of the Eastern Slopes Policy, the present and potential impacts of these objectives on recreation, watershed, wildlife and fisheries resources must be assessed. Then the range management and improvement programs must be adjusted accordingly.

   Reference Index 131.

2.5 Zoning in the Upper South Castle Valley

2.5.1 Summary of Comments

The draft plan designates the upper South Castle Valley as General Recreation (Zone 4). This provision has been challenged by local Fish and Game Associations, Timber Mountain Packtrain Ltd., Parks Canada and several regional residents. Concerns focus on the belief that this remote area will now be open to resource and access developments under the present zoning, which in turn would result in the displacement of regionally significant wildlife species and the disruption of the traditional extensive recreation uses.

The Alberta Forest Products Association believes that the retention of two drainages in the upper South Castle in Zone 1 will constrain wise forest management.

2.5.2 Government Response

The Zone 4 designation was chosen because it facilitated an optimal use of available resources in this area. Under this designation, consumptive resource uses will fall under strict guidelines to ensure the traditional recreation uses and extensive recreation priority of the management area are not compromised. Access will be carefully monitored and controlled to ensure current use levels are maintained.

The subalpine reaches of Scarpe Creek and Jutland Brook were retained in Zone 1 because of aesthetic value. Sanitation logging of Mountain Pine Beetle infected stands is presently allowed in Zone 1 to ensure the infestation does not spread to healthy forests.

2.5.3 Specific Comments Received

1. The remote, backcountry area in the upper South Castle Valley must be protected from additional industrial and commercial use (i.e. timber and mineral production, domestic grazing) and access development. The zoning proposed does not protect the regionally significant wildlife populations present, nor does it recognize the significance of this area for extensive recreation.

   One contributor felt the Zone 4 should be terminated at Scarpe Creek so that the entire upper South Castle would be designated Zone 1.

   Reference Index 5, 7, 17, 17a, 34, 50, 60.

2. Zone 1 lands should be extended below tree line, especially in the South and West Castle valleys. At the very least, the Prime Protection (Zone 1) should be extended down into the valleys from Font Creek upstream in both the Font Creek and South Castle drainages and upstream on the West Castle south of Middle Kootenay Pass.

   No further timber or oil and gas development should be allowed south of Scarpe Creek in the South Castle Valley and south of Middle Kootenay Pass in the West Castle Valley.

   Reference Index 130.

3. Concern was expressed that Zone 4 would facilitate an increase in access development which in turn would increase backcountry recreation use levels in Waterton Lakes National Park.

   Reference Index 6.

4. The sub-drainages of the South Castle River (Scarpe Creek, Jutland Brook, Font Creek and the headwaters of the South Castle) should be a part of the commercial timber land base. Managing or attempting to salvage endangered or damaged stands in Zone 1 will most often not be feasible due to the time element involved in establishing dispositions.

   Reference Index 4.

5. Petroleum and natural gas exploration and development can be compatible with other resource uses in the upper South Castle Valley.

   Reference Index 124.

6. Agree in principle with the various zones created. In particular the establishment of the Prime Protection Zone at the alpine/sub-alpine ecozone (i.e. tree line).

   Reference Index 4.

7. The higher elevation forests should be considered as major protection areas. The high elevations forest is a major factor in the slow release of clean clear water into the drainages. Using the tree line as a boundary for the Prime Protection Zone is artificial and does little to ensure the watershed protection priority espoused by the plan.

   Reference Index 130.

8. Drawing the Prime Protection Zone line in the Castle region so that it excludes sub-alpine forests will not resolve the problems facing the timber industry in southern Alberta. The sub-alpine forests are difficult and costly to regenerate, and growth is very slow. Left in place, they continue to provide important wildlife habitat, recreation areas and quality watersheds.

   Reference Index 131.

2.6 Critical Wildlife (Zone 2) Designations East of the Rocky Mountain Forest Reserve

2.6.1 Summary of Comments

The Improvement District 6 Advisory Council has recommended that the Zone 2 designations should be removed from public lands east of the Forest Reserve and increased in the Forest Reserve as a remedial measure. This position was taken on behalf of ID 6 ratepayers who have experienced wildlife depredation problems in the Castle Foothills management area. The Alberta Fish and Game Association and the Castle River Stock Association were in general support of the Critical Wildlife (Zone 2) designations.

2.6.2 Government Response

The Castle River Sub-regional Integrated Resource Plan was prepared to meet a variety of goals. The conservation of wildlife species, one of these goals, could only be achieved if steps were taken to protect critical habitat areas. The Critical Wildlife (Zone 2) designation was used to identify critical ranges of regionally significant wildlife species. In the Castle Foothills management area, public land parcels adjacent to the Forest Reserve boundary were known to be essential for the survival of elk (i.e. winter forage and escape cover). This designation will help to ensure that elk production is recognized as a legitimate use in association with domestic grazing and other available resource uses such as timber production and recreation.

The draft plan's objectives and guidelines on pages 81 and 82 for wildlife acknowledge wildlife depredation problems experienced by private landowners. Measures will be implemented to reduce this problem in future once the draft plan is approved.

2.6.3 Specific Comments Received

1. The draft plan expresses a general commitment to maintain a critical wildlife zone for ungulate populations east of the Forest Reserve. This critical wildlife designation has over the past several years resulted in an increase in ungulate populations in the foothills/ranching area to the point where ungulates now cause severe annual damage (winter time destruction of haystacks by elk, summer time destruction of forage crops by all ungulates). Maintaining or even increasing the critical wildlife designations east of the forestry zone

would aggravate an already intolerable situation. The ID 6 Advisory Council recommends that critical wildlife zones be lifted east of the Forest Reserve and increased in the Forest Reserve.

Reference Index 3.

2. Supportive of the draft plan's treatment of critical winter range for elk in the Castle Foothills management area.

Reference Index 34.

3. The Castle River Stock Association acknowledged that lands disposed to them for domestic grazing were designated as Critical Wildlife (Zone 2). The Association felt that the plan's general priorities for tourism and recreation should therefore not apply because of the incompatibility of these priorities.

Reference Index 32.

2.7 Coal Development in the Castle River Area

2.7.1 Summary of Comments

The Municipality of Crowsnest Pass council and a Crowsnest Pass resident interested in the development of coal resources in the Castle River area were concerned that the draft plan and 1976 Coal Policy together were too prohibitive. A position was made that it was inappropriate for the draft plan or 1976 Coal Policy to preclude the development of coal resources or to restrict the technology to be used. The prohibition of surface mining in the Maverick Hill area was a specific example presented by the council. The Coal Association of Canada was concerned that resource allocation decisions were made when coal resource information was imperfect.

2.7.2 Government Response

The draft plan uses a land use zoning scheme for the allocation and management of natural resources in the Castle River area. Certain uses which are not compatible with the priority use of a given zone are either placed under strict operating guidelines or prohibited. This action must be taken to ensure the use of one resource does not preclude the use of others. The co-existence of highly competitive land

uses often calls for a compromise. In the Maverick Hill area, the protection of critical winter range for elk was recognized as a management priority. Because the potential for the occurrence of coal under these lands was high and its development by surface mining methods proposed a direct threat to the security of this wildlife range, the plan restricted coal development to underground methods only. The implications of this decision were considered.

2.7.3 Specific Comments Received

1. Coal development in the Castle River area is severely limited by the draft plan and the 1976 Coal Policy. The development of coal is made possible in the Carbondale-Lynx Creek area and north of Beaver Mines Lake since these areas fall into Zones 4 or 5. It is uneconomical, however, to mine these coal deposits because they are severely faulted by the Bramwell Fault or because they occur at extreme depths (5000 ft). Coal companies must be allowed to develop coal reserves since environmental safeguards can be employed to mitigate potential impacts on other resource uses.

   Reference Index 35.

2. There is not ample justification given to prohibit surface mining in the Maverick Hill area in the draft plan. Measures can be taken to mitigate the environmental impacts of this use.

   Reference Index 33.

3. There is coal development potential in the Maverick Hill area south of the Carbondale River. While the plan stipulates only underground mining is possible for wildlife conservation reasons, development cannot be approved because the 1976 Coal Policy prohibits any form of development there. A need exists to bring the two policies closer together.

   Reference Index 125.

4. There should be no coal development anywhere in the Castle River drainage until the plan states any new direction, the 1976 Coal Policy should be the guide.

   Reference Index 130.

5. All resource uses should be assessed equally and objectively prior to any area being assigned to a particular resource use.

In the case of coal, this would mean acceptance of exploration programmes to determine the worth of deposits in areas of high renewable resource value. Attachment of high economic value to a coal deposit would allow development under stringent environmental/mitigation/reclamation measures, notwithstanding high environmental sensitivity.

Reference Index 1.

2.8 Implementation of the Castle River Sub-regional Integrated Resource Plan

2.8.1 Summary of Comments

The Hon. Fred Bradley, MLA for the constituency of Pincher Creek-Crowsnest, strongly recommended the continuation of public involvement during the implementation of the Castle River plan at the Pincher Creek and Crowsnest Pass Information Exchange sessions. This sentiment was also brought forward by the Alberta Fish and Game Association and the Chinook Country Tourist Association. These contributors were concerned that the plan's focus on broad policy matters prevented the disclosure of detailed operational considerations such as road and trail closures, public land sales or recreational facility development. These considerations were of prime importance to the public, but were not identified in the draft plan. Opportunities for public input were subsequently required before the government made these detailed decisions during the implementation of the plan.

2.8.2 Government Response

There are currently two mechanisms for public input during the implementation of the Castle River plan. During the development of operational plans for the management of specific resources in the Castle River area, organizations and individuals directly affected by certain provisions have been invited to provide an input before a final decision is made. This practice has proven to be very effective. The scope of public involvement during the development of operational plans has been limited because experience has shown public interest is also quite limited. The need for greater public involvement in this area is currently under study.

The second opportunity for public input during the implementation phase will be provided in the case of major amendments to the plan. Proposals for major amendment may be made as a result of an

annual or major five year review of the plan, a government request or as a result from an individual, group or organization outside the government.

2.8.3 Specific Comments Received

1. The Alberta government must come back to regional residents during the implementation stage of the planning process. The public is concerned with specific aspects of resource management in the Castle River area which are not addressed in the plan because of its emphasis on broad policy for resource allocation and management.

   Reference Index 14, 30, 34, 39, 42, 54, 107, 131.

2. The various zones which restrict timber harvesting are of concern. We recognize the need for flagging areas for priority uses. The problem is we do not know what restrictions could be placed on timber harvesting. We may therefore seriously object to the zone. There must be a reasonable fit between restrictions and the economic viability of the forest industry.

   Reference Index 4.

3. Will registered trapline holders be consulted before decisions are made to cut snowmobile trails, cross-country ski trails and to establish major recreation facilities.

   Reference Index 31.

4. After the Castle River Sub-regional Integrated Resource Plan is approved, will there be an integrated operational plan?

   Reference Index 43.

5. There is a need for continuing consultation between Parks Canada and the Alberta government during plan implementation to ensure management objectives for Waterton Lakes National Park and the Castle River area are compatible at an operational level?

   Reference Index 6.

2.9 Assorted Operational or Peripherally-Related Comments

This section contains a broad sample of comments received, many of which were addressed in depth during the Information Exchange Sessions. These comments have an operational inclination or challenge provincial government policies and therefore are not directly related to provisions in the draft plan.

1. The extensive clear-cutting done over 20 years ago in the Carbondale-Lynx Creek management area has had a severe impact on the watershed there.

   Reference Index 22, 49.

2. Recreation use pressure at Beaver Mines Lake exceeds the carrying capacity of this area during the summer. Controls are necessary to restrict types of boating and fishing.

   Reference Index 10.

3. Off-highway recreational vehicle use controls are required.

   Reference Index 10.

4. Only primitive campgrounds should be established.

   Reference Index 56, 58.

5. "Wilderness" must be recognized as a legitimate land use. This designation is needed so that areas can be left untouched and allowed to regenerate to a natural state. There is more to planning than the perpetuation of existing uses.

   Reference Index 26.

6. Unique and rare geological resources (e.g., alpine eshers) should be protected for educational reasons.

   Reference Index 24.

7. Random camping should not be prohibited.

   Reference Index 120, 121.

8. More designated camping areas are needed in the Castle River area, particularly in the South Castle Valley and near West Castle Park.

   Reference Index 44.

9. Cross-country ski trails should be increased and managed. Trails should be cleared of stumps, trees, and shrubs; and should be well marked.

   Reference Index 54.

10. Access onto private land from leased public land is currently a problem. How will landowners deal with the influx of tourists and recreationists into the Castle River area.

    Reference Index 29, 61.

11. The draft plan is too heavily weighted to resource development.

    Reference Index 26, 62.

12. Roads in the planning area should not be improved to a highway standard.

    Reference Index 58, 87.

13. Old logging roads should be improved to allow people using conventional vehicles to travel into backcountry areas.

    Reference Index 22.

14. Cattle should not be permitted to enter into the Impessa Boy Scout Camp. Operational measures such as fencing might be considered.

    Reference Index 9.

15. The 1977 Eastern Slopes Policy should be re-instated.

    Reference Index 57.

3. LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Reference Index No.	Name	Organization Represented Place of Residence/Business	Source of Comments
1	R.T. Marshall	President Coal Association of Canada Calgary	Written Brief Submitted after Public Forums
2	Stewart Rood	Alberta Whitewater Association Oldman River Canoe Association Lethbridge	"
3	Bertram Dyck	Manager Improvement District 8 Canmore	"
4	Garry Leithead	Alberta Forest Products Assoc. Calgary	"
5	David Simpson	President Alberta Outfitters Association Claresholm	"
6	S. Kun	Director Parks Canada Western Region Calgary	"
7	David Hamer	Waterton Park	"
8	Emil Tapay	Bellevue	"
9	William Brown	Vice President Camp Impessa Boy Scouts of Canada Lethbridge	Written Brief presented at the Lethbridge IES

Reference Index No.	Name	Organization Represented Place of Residence/Business	Source of Comments
10.	Paul Wilkinson	Lethbridge Naturalists' Society, Lethbridge	Oral Brief made at the Lethbridge IES
11.	John Dormaar	President Archaeological Society of Alberta, Lethbridge	Written Brief presented at the Lethbridge IES
12.	Bill McIntyre	Oldman River Regional Planning Commission Lethbridge	Oral Brief made at the Lethbridge IES
13.	Theresa Dolmar	University of Lethbridge Lethbridge	"
14.	Randy Smith	Chinook Country Tourist Association, Lethbridge	"
15.	Warner Fisher	Lethbridge	Comments made during Question & Answer Period at the Lethbridge IES
16.	Frank Johnson	Lethbridge Fish & Game Association, Lethbridge	"
17.	Ron Goodwin	Lethbridge Fish & Game Association, Lethbridge	Written Brief presented at the Lethbridge IES

Reference Index No.	Name	Organization Represented Place of Residence/Business	Source of Comments
17a.	Ron Goodwin	Lethbridge Fish & Game Association, Lethbridge	Written Brief Submitted after Public Forums
18.	Gene Scully	Lethbridge Fish & Game Association Lethbridge	Written Brief Submitted after Public Forums
19.	Dave Friesen	Residents' Organization for Accountable Representation (ROAR) Pincher Creek	Written Brief presented at the Pincher C. IES
20.	Douglas McClelland	Spokesman Grazing Leaseholders Pincher Creek	"
21.	Juan Terran	Major Town of Pincher Creek Pincher Creek	Oral Brief made at the Pincher C. IES
22.	John Mazur	Pincher Creek	"
23.	Bill Hlady	Councillor Municipal District of Pincher Creek, Pincher Creek	"
24.	Brad Taylor	Glenview	"
25.	Hugh Craig	Chinook Country Tourist Association	"

Reference Index No.	Name	Organization Represented Place of Residence/Business	Source of Comments
26.	David Sheppard	Pincher Creek	Comments made during Question & Answer Period at the Pincher C. IES
27.	Rick Matheson	Pincher Creek	"
28.	Juan Terran	Major	"
29.	George Huddleston	Pincher Creek	"
30.	Hon. Fred Bradley	MLA, Pincher Creek-Crowsnest	"
31.	Gordon Hoffman	President Coleman Trappers Association Pincher Creek	"
32.	Ken McDowall	Secretary Castle River Stock Assoc.	Written Brief submitted after the Public Forums
33.	John Irwin	Major Municipality of Crowsnest Pass	Written Brief presented at the Crowsnest Pass IES
34.	Horst Fauser	Alberta Fish and Game Association, Lethbridge	"
35.	Jock Lynne	Crowsnest Pass	Oral Brief made at Crowsnest Pass IES

Reference Index No.	Name	Organization Represented Place of Residence/Business	Source of Comments
36.	Les Siray	Bellevue	Comments made during Question & Answer Period at Crowsnest Pass IES
37.	Rory Ingram	Hillcrest Fish & Game Association, Crowsnest Pass	"
38.	Sandra Petrych	Hillcrest Fish & Game Associaiton, Crowsnest Pass	"
39.	Ross McDonald	Coleman Fish & Game Associaiton, Crowsnest Pass	"
40.	Yarimul Rozicka	Crowsnest Pass	Comments made during Question & Answer Period at Crowsnest Pass IES
41.	Norman Neufeld	Crowsnest Pass	"
42.	Hon. Fred Bradley	MLA, Pincher Creek-Crowsnest	"
43.	Garry Helinga	Coalhurst	Question-naire Comments
44.	Sharon E. Grismer	Lethbridge	"
45.	Dennis Jobe	Lethbridge	"
46.	William M. Brown	Southern Alberta Council Boy Scouts of Canada	"
47.	Anne Fairfield	Lethbridge	"

Reference Index No.	Name	Organization Represented Place of Residence/Business	Source of Comments
48.	R.J. Fairfield	Lethbridge	Questionnaire Comments
49.	Ursula M. Langen	Lethbridge	"
50.	Ron Goodwin	Lethbridge Fish & Game Association, Lethbridge	"
51.	Vern Schev	Lethbridge	"
52.	Norm Spencer	Lethbridge	"
53.	J.F. Dormaar	Lethbridge	"
54.	Doris Rhodes	Lethbridge	"
55.	Vince Petherbridge	Lethbridge	"
56.	Bob Haraga	Lethbridge	"
57.	Mary E. Bailey	Chinook Outdoor Club Southern Alberta Environmental Group, Lethbridge	"
58.	Leroy C. Lang	Pincher Creek	"
59.	Cecil & Margerie Shenton	Pincher Creek	"
60.	Jim Berridge	Pincher Creek	"
61.	Berny Zoratti	Pincher Creek	"
62.	Sophie Taylor	Pincher Creek Environmental Association	"
63.	Frank Bruder	Pincher Creek	"
64.	Debbie Barrett	Pincher Creek	"

Reference Index No.	Name	Organization Represented Place of Residence/Business	Source of Comments
65.	Juan Terran	Major Town of Pincher Creek Pincher Creek	Question-naire Comments
66.	Elerdy Heinz	Pincher Creek	"
67.	Hugh Dunham	Pincher Creek	"
68.	Dave Friesen	Resident's Organization for Accountable Representation Pincher Creek	"
69.	J. Potts Jr.	Brochet	"
70.	A.F. Mathes	Pincher Creek	"
71.	Gordon Hoffman	President, Coleman Trapping Association, Pincher Creek	"
72.	Vivien Goodrich	Southern Alberta Equestrian Council, Diamond City	"
73.	Frank McLaughlin	Pincher Creek	"
74.	Allen G. Clark	Hillspring	"
75.	George Huddleston	Twin Butte	
76.	J. Frank Marr	Twin Butte	"
77.	Leonard McGlynn	Twin Butte	"
78.	Robert Wynde	Hillspring	"
79.	Ken McDowall	Pincher Creek	"
80.	Wilbur Lang	Pincher Creek	"
81.	Randy Foster	Pincher Creek	"
82.	Art Christiansen	Fort McLeod	"

Reference Index No.	Name	Organization Represented Place of Residence/Business	Source of Comments
83.	H. Doll	Pincher Creek	Questionnaire Comments
84.	Lloyd Spronk	Pincher Creek Stockmen's Association, Pincher Creek	"
85.	William L. White	Lundbreck	"
86.	Hans Michel	Hillspring	"
87.	John Mazur	Pincher Creek	"
88.	George Mowat	Cowley	"
89.	H.C. Craig	Fort McLeod	"
90.	Brad Taylor	Glenwood	"
91.	Norm Giesbrecht	Pincher Creek	"
92.	Bruno A. Yagos	Pincher Creek	"
93.	Dale Brown	Pincher Creek	"
94.	Raymond Gauthier	Pincher Creek	"
95.	Douglas G. McLelland	Pincher Creek	"
96.	Cecil L. Blackburn	Pincher Creek	"
97.	Frank Gingras	Pincher Creek Mountaineers Snowmobile Club, Pincher Creek	"
98.	Jim Davies	Pincher Creek	"
99.	Helen Gresl	Hillcrest Mines	"
100.	Steve Kubasek	Pincher Creek	"
101.	Hugh R. Metzler	Pincher Creek	"

Reference Index No.	Name	Organization Represented Place of Residence/Business	Source of Comments
102.	Marian Michalsky	Lunbreck	Questionnaire Comments
103.	William Michalsky	Alberta Wilderness Association Willow Valley Trophy Club Lunbreck	"
104.	Vince Bosetti	Bellevue	"
105.	Francis Houda	Bellevue	"
106.	Steve Liska Jr.	Coleman	"
107.	R.D. McDonald	Coleman Fish & Game Association Coleman	"
108.	Norman Neufeld	Blairmore	"
109.	Elmer R. Strandquist	Hillcrest	"
110.	John MacGarva	Blairmore	"
111.	E.N. Grimm	Bellevue	"
112.	Ed. S. Stresmbick	Coleman	"
113.	D. Richard Low	Underwood, McLellan & Associates Lethbridge	"
114.	Yarmil Ruzicka	Blairmore	"
115.	Mike Lamb	Blairmore	"
116.	Leslie Siray	Bellevue	"
117.	Howard Davis	Pincher Creek	"
118.	Kathy Engelhardt	Blairmore	"
119.	John J. Sikora	Coleman	"

Reference Index No.	Name	Organization Represented Place of Residence/Business	Source of Comments
120.	Doug Clark	Lethbridge	Comments made during Lethbridge OHS
121.	Glenn Campbell	Lethbridge	"
122.	Hilton Pharis	Reeve Municipal District of Pincher Creek Pincher Creek	Comments made during Pincher C. OHS
123.	Norm Spencer	Lethbridge	Comments made during Lethbridge OHS
124.	Michael Lambros	Pincher Creek	Comments made during Pincher C. OHS
125.	Aunald Jopling	Subterranean Coal Develop. Ltd., Blairmore	Comments made at Crowsnest Pass OHS
126.	Elinora Morr	Twin Butte	"
127.	Helen Gresl	Hillcrest	"
128.	Vince Bossetti	Bellevue	"
129.	Wallace R. Hanson	Calgary	Written Brief Submitted after Public Forums
130.	Cliff Wallace	President, Cottonwood Consultants Ltd., Calgary	"
131.	Alberta Wilderness Association	Calgary	"